

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 419

By Walley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Eleanor Henson Knee Rooks of Brownsville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Eleanor Henson Knee Rooks of Brownsville, who will be lovingly remembered by her family and friends as "a cheerleader for life" and "a source of encouragement and wise counsel to many"; and

WHEREAS, a lady of many talents, Mrs. Rooks taught in both public and private schools, worked as a school guidance counselor, coached girls' basketball, and served as an assistant commissioner of education under Governor Lamar Alexander; and

WHEREAS, active in the Republican Party at the local, State, and national levels, Mrs. Rooks had served as the State president of the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women; she was also a key organizer for many successful State and federal campaigns and attended GOP national conventions; and

WHEREAS, a faithful member of First Presbyterian Church of Brownsville, she served her fellow Christians as an elder, choir member, couples' class teacher for fifty years, and ardent prayer warrior; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rooks truly personified the spirit of the Volunteer State, always working to better the lives of others through literacy, good government, and mentorship as a role model and living civics lesson; and

WHEREAS, among her many good deeds in service of her community, she was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Haywood County Historical Society, and the 8th Air Force Historical Society and had served on the Tennessee Historical Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rooks's contagious creative spirit was revealed through her wonderful poems, a ragtime tune she pounded out on the piano, her self-taught artistry, and her remarkable ability to slalom waterski from a seated start on the dock while keeping her hair dry; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rooks was the very embodiment of a Proverbs wife; she was more concerned about others than herself, and she never uttered an unkind word; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Willard Josephine Henson Knee and Irvin "Tiny" Knee, Eleanor Rooks grew up in Ripley and was a graduate of the University of Mississippi, where she served as president of Kappa Delta sorority; and

WHEREAS, she married Ned Rooks, the one true love of her life, in 1949, and together they raised four children while working as real estate developers in Brownsville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Rooks enjoyed fifty-nine years as husband and wife until his passing; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rooks is survived by her son, Dr. Robert Rooks (Debby); her daughters, Willard Helander (Glenn Jarvi), Anne Rooks, and Carrie Sue Monroe; and her eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Eleanor Henson Knee Rooks was a public servant of the highest order, and her legacy will live on through her many good works to improve the lives of her fellow Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Eleanor Henson Knee Rooks of Brownsville, reflecting fondly upon her life of purpose and commitment to others, and extend to her family and many friends our sympathy and condolences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.